



June 9, 2003

The Honorable Magalie R. Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First St., N.E.  
Washington, DC 20426

Re: **Project Number 11880-000 (Colorado)** - Request to use the Alternative Licensing Process for the Proposed Ritschard Dam Unit Water Power Project

Dear Secretary Salas:

The Colorado River Water Conservation District, acting by and through the Colorado River Water Projects Enterprise (River District), hereby requests approval under section 4.34(i) of the Commission's regulations to use the Alternative Licensing Process (ALP) in preparing an application for exemption from licensing for the proposed Ritschard Dam Unit Water Power Project. This letter and the attachments document the River District's efforts to contact resource agencies and develop a communications protocol to guide communications during the ALP. The attached correspondence also demonstrates that there is a consensus among the resource agencies that the ALP is appropriate for this project.

In February 2003, the River District distributed a draft communications protocol to federal, state, and local agencies, special interest groups, and individuals that may have an interest in the proposed project. (A list of individuals and entities to whom the draft communications protocol was sent is included as Attachment 1) We asked the parties to comment on the draft communications protocol and have incorporated their comments in the Final Communications Protocol (Attachment 2). The Final Communications Protocol is acceptable to the resource agencies and stakeholders involved with the project.

Also, we asked the parties to indicate whether the ALP is appropriate for this project. Notably, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Army Corps of Engineers, Grand County Board of County Commissioners, Town of Kremmling, Colorado Water Quality Control Division, and Trout Unlimited have approved the use of the ALP. In fact, all of the parties that responded to our request to participate in the process indicated that the ALP is appropriate for this project (Attachment 3).

The River District has made a reasonable effort to contact parties that may have a stake in the development of the proposed project. We have worked with the interested parties to develop a Communications Protocol that will guide communications during the licensing exemption process. There is a consensus among the parties that the ALP is appropriate for the Ritschard Dam Unit Hydroelectric Project. Accordingly, the River District respectfully requests that the Commission grant this request to use the ALP.

Sincerely,

R. Eric Kuhn  
General Manager